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RTD UPDATES: Foreign Landownership

Data updates for employees and colleagues of the Resources and Technology Division

Resources and Technology Division
Economic Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

April 1992

Slight Increase in Foreign Ownership of U.S. Farmland in 1991

Foreign individuals and entities reported owning 14.8 million acres of U.S. agricultural land as of December 31, 1991, slightly more than 1 percent of the privately owned farm and forest land in the United States. This is a 3-percent increase (419,474 acres) over the 1990 data but remains in the range of just above or below the 1-percent figure, where it has been since 1981.

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 required all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture as of February 1, 1979. Subsequent acquisitions and dispositions of such lands are reported to the Secretary on a transaction basis. This provides the Department with a continuing inventory of such ownership that is netted out at the end of each calendar year and reported to the President and the Congress.

Forest land accounts for 49 percent of the acreage, cropland for 17 percent, pasture and other agriculture for 31 percent, and agricultural land not in production for 3 percent. Foreign persons from Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands Antilles, and Mexico account for 73 percent of the foreign-held acreage. Foreign persons from Japan own only 3 percent of the foreign-owned acreage.

Details appear in *Foreign Ownership of U.S. Agricultural Land Through December 31, 1991*, Staff Report AGES 9211, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., April 1992. Tables and text in that report provide information by State, country of origin, type of owner, costs, values, method of acquisition, use, and tenure. Further information: J.Peter DeBraal, RTD (202) 219-0425.

Monthly Data Releases Planned

RTD UPDATES, published by the Resources and Technology Division, is a new series of monthly data highlights relating to agricultural resources, the environment, food safety, global change, and technology. Surveys of farm operators and others knowledgeable about changing agricultural resource conditions provide vital information to the RTD research program and are the source of these data highlights. **RTD UPDATES**, limited to four pages, gives readers recent data acquisitions, with only minimal interpretation or analysis. This quick release of data should enhance your analytical efforts and decisions. Please contact the individual listed in the text of **RTD UPDATES** on the availability and timing of additional information. Different resource and technology issues will be featured each month, depending on availability of data.

Trends in Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land by Type of Use, 1981-91

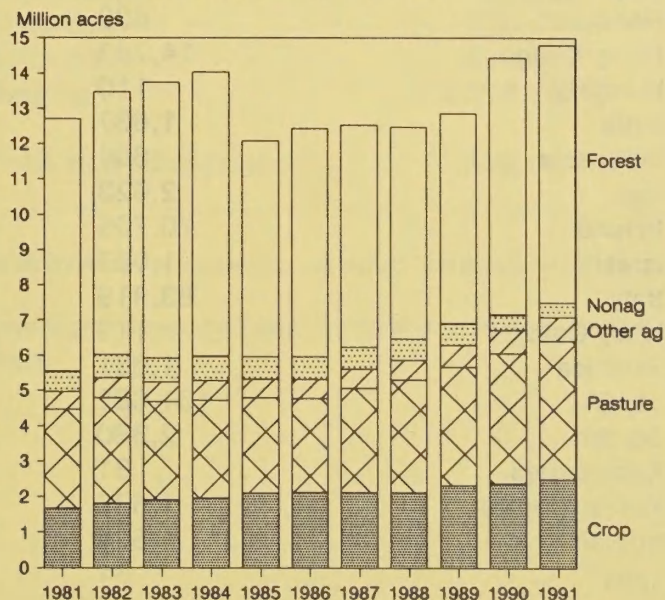


Table 1—U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1991

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
Interests excl. U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders			
Argentina	13,394	Lebanon	13,282
Australia	3,449	Liberia	29,684
Austria	55,889	Liechtenstein	144,371
Bahamas	33,746	Luxembourg	3,976
Bahrain	553	Malaysia	7,948
Barbados	117	Mexico	174,555
Belgium	63,368	Morocco	1,035
Belize	549	Namibia	197
Bermuda	73,732	Netherlands	113,651
Bolivia	11	Netherlands Antilles	366,730
Brazil	5,262	New Zealand	463
British Virgin Islands	69,961	Nicaragua	1,378
Canada	1,970,717	Norway	5,547
Cayman Islands	23,224	Oman	454
Chile	1,556	Pakistan	2,171
China	496	Panama	168,015
Colombia	11,480	Peru	278
Costa Rica	13,419	Philippines	3,863
Cuba	20	Poland	147
Czechoslovakia	485	Portugal	1,306
Denmark	9,682	St. Vincent	2,637
Dominican Republic	2,128	Saudi Arabia	38,651
Ecuador	976	Singapore	528
Egypt	2,134	Somalia	11
El Salvador	309	South Africa	1,940
France	87,125	Southern Rhodesia	230
Gambia	294	Spain	2,626
Germany	756,747	Sweden	32,334
Greece	57,423	Switzerland	300,273
Guatemala	1,022	Syria	4,706
Guyana	35	Taiwan	11,929
Honduras	892	Tanzania	10,143
Hong Kong	14,763	Thailand	252
Hungary	110	Trinidad & Tobago	131
India	1,687	Turkey	558
Indonesia	804	Turks Islands	3,192
Iran	2,623	United Arab Emrates	3,810
Ireland	10,705	United Kingdom	1,803,214
Israel	1,067	Uruguay	10,807
Italy	83,919	U.S.S.R.	841
Ivory Coast	119	Venezuela	19,543
Jamaica	1,631	Vietnam	152
Japan	181,692	Yugoslavia	1,023
Jordan	2,380		
Kampuchea	31	Multiple ¹	55,344
Korea (South)	1,536	Third tier ²	80,863
Kuwait	1,635		
Laos	31	Subtotal ³	6,989,717

See footnotes at end of table.

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Table 1—U.S. agricultural landholdings by country of foreign owner, December 31, 1991

Country	Acres	Country	Acres
	<i>Number</i>		<i>Number</i>
U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders		US/Kuwait	7,561
US/Andorra	3,741	US/Lebanon	703
US/Argentina	4,255	US/Liberia	26,733
US/Australia	1,565	US/Libyan Arab Republic	280
US/Austria	19,886	US/Liechtenstein	52,250
US/Bahamas	72,085	US/Luxembourg	233,590
US/Barbados	41	US/Malaysia	300
US/Belgium	73,904	US/Mexico	322,583
US/Bermuda	38,633	US/Netherlands	315,556
US/Brazil	12,198	US/Netherlands Antilles	223,465
US/Brit. Virgin Islands	3,490	US/New Hebrides	2,991
US/Canada	1,690,906	US/New Zealand	47,010
US/Cayman Islands	10,748	US/Nicaragua	282
US/Chile	9,929	US/Norway	8,333
US/China	15,589	US/Panama	146,244
US/Colombia	10,154	US/Peru	100
US/Costa Rica	407	US/Philippines	7,793
US/Denmark	6,998	US/Portugal	1,683
US/Ecuador	1,632	US/Quatar	219
US/Egypt	1,963	US/Saudi Arabia	21,117
US/El Salvador	533	US/South Africa	4,404
US/Finland	2,369	US/Spain	4,574
US/France	1,019,520	US/Sweden	6,172
US/Germany	444,852	US/Switzerland	333,409
US/Greece	5,249	US/Taiwan	10,995
US/Guatemala	412	US/Thailand	252
US/Guyana	334	US/Trinidad & Tobago	20
US/Honduras	37	US/Turkey	443
US/Hong Kong	131,379	US/United Arab Emirates	2,107
US/Indonesia	544	US/United Kingdom	1,326,892
US/Iran	1,967	US/Uruguay	618
US/Iraq	800	US/Venezuela	38,069
US/Ireland	4,608	US/Multiple	180,278
US/Italy	21,646	US/Third tier	610,896
US/Japan	268,367	Subtotal ⁴	7,818,784
US/Kenya	32		
US/Korea (South)	85	Total all landholdings	14,808,501

¹A report is processed as "multiple" when no single country predominates—for example, an equal partnership between a Canadian and a German.

²A report is processed as "third tier" if three or more levels of ownership are reported with no foreign interests indicated.

³Total interests excluding U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

⁴Total interest of U.S. corporations with foreign shareholders.

Table 2—U.S. agricultural landholdings of foreign owners, by State, December 31, 1991

State	Foreign-owned agricultural land	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land	State	Foreign-owned agricultural land
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>
Alabama	409,759	Louisiana	688,373	Oklahoma	53,795
Alaska	0	Maine	2,828,483	Oregon	746,285
Arizona	326,700	Maryland	52,186	Pennsylvania	56,824
Arkansas	188,329	Massachusetts	1,934	Puerto Rico	839
California	915,882	Michigan	203,588	Rhode Island	0
Colorado	584,455	Minnesota	220,775	South Carolina	190,692
Connecticut	1,074	Mississippi	502,458	South Dakota	42,882
Delaware	5,870	Missouri	82,195	Tennessee	174,298
Florida	562,039	Montana	555,651	Texas	1,078,999
Georgia	573,040	Nebraska	76,251	Utah	68,107
Guam	0	Nevada	179,912	Vermont	120,374
Hawaii	175,517	New Hampshire	220,199	Virginia	117,063
Idaho	22,944	New Jersey	19,343	Washington	375,841
Illinois	185,062	New Mexico	926,014	West Virginia	102,459
Indiana	79,713	New York	263,895	Wisconsin	23,467
Iowa	32,012	North Carolina	229,659	Wyoming	170,896
Kansas	73,574	North Dakota	30,851		
Kentucky	93,226	Ohio	174,717	Total	14,808,501

RTD UPDATES

Economic Research Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

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